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IN COMMON COUNCIL,

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1830.

Communication from Judge Wright, on the subject of supplying the City with Water, referred to the Committees on Water and Fire Department, with authority to print.

J. MORTON, Clerk.

To the honourable Walter Bowne, Mayor of the City of New-York.

Dear Sir,

The supplying the City over which you preside with pure and wholesome water, in quantity adequate to meet the wants of its extended and crowded community, is an object, which, in the opinion of the most intelligent and attentive observers, is daily becoming more and more indispensable; and is a measure of such pressing necessity and importance, that every delay is a detriment and inconvenience to nearly the whole city, and will, it is feared, if delayed, accumulate impediments and obstacles still greater, to obstruct its accomplishment at a future day.

Among some sensible practical men an opinion has unfortunately prevailed, that a sufficient supply cannot be obtained from the Bronx, Sawmill River, Byram River and Rye Pond, according to the plan reported by C. White, Esq. to the N. Y. Water Works Company, and previously, to the Corporation of the City in 1823, in which examinations

and plans I concurred, after a full knowledge of all the ground and localities to form a proper judgment.

I have no doubts remaining on my mind, as to a supply of ten millions of gallons daily in the driest season, and by strict economy in reserving water, and by making no unnecessary expenditure of it, there is a great probability that the quantity might be increased to twelve or fifteen millions daily.

Although the examinations and measurements of the water, on which I formed my opinion, were made with care, and the calculations drawn up with accuracy, and all deductions reasonable and proper were made, so as to bring the result even within rather than beyond the limit of exactitude, still as there are persons who entertain doubts and fears that the quantity is doubtful, and whose confidence and influence in the whole plan is desirable, and it is possible that the time chosen in 1823 for the measurement, was not the lowest state the water was ever known to be, and as it is all important to understand the whole ground of the plan, and the least possible supply we are to expect, and as this project is to last forever, and in its execution will be very expensive, every possible precaution should be taken to examine and measure, through the driest season of August, September and October,

1st, All the quantity of water running in the Bronx at its lowest possible state, to be found at a place above the Tuckahoe Factory, about 12 or 13 miles above Macomb's Bridge over Harlaem River,

2d, The quantity in Sawmill River at a point where it may be easily turned into the Bronx, as reported by Mr. White to the Corporation,

3d, The quantity of water issuing from Rye Pond, and the best way of holding up the surplus water, as a source to draw upon in time of drought,

4th, The quantity of water in Byram River where it can be easily turned into Rye Pond.

These examinations ought to be made as speedily as can be done, if done this season.

There is yet another examination which ought to be made, as a resort at a future day, when the population of the City shall reach 500,000 souls;—I mean Croton River;—to see how its waters can be brought into Sawmill River, above where the latter stream can be turned into the Bronx.

This last examination and some of the others are not required to be speedily done;—they can be deferred to a future day.

If the waters I have mentioned above were carefully measured now, it would satisfy every candid man, as to the supply which may be considered as forever at the controul of the city.

The preparation for measuring each stream with competent and satisfactory accuracy, will require a small dam made with a few plank, so as to cause the water to fall over the edge in a regular and uniform sheet, and a box of large size to receive a certain portion of this sheet.

The probable cost of these fixtures would not exceed 100 dollars, and to this add the expense of a young man, who may be employed for 20 or 30 days, at two dollars per day; say two hundred dollars would be the whole expense.

Such examinations made in the driest season, cannot fail to satisfy every man of the quantity of the water which can be expected from this source.

If any doubts exist as to the quality of the water, it can be easily analyzed:—for myself, I have no doubts as to its superior quality, and consider there can be no fears of the good quality of water, rising from springs in a primitive or granite formation. It is in this formation where we are to look for water of the purest and softest quality.

I might add to this communication, some strong reasons to show the importance of water to scour and cleanse the gutters, and remove the offensive smell and causes of bad and unwholesome air which is seen in many parts of the city. I might show the importance of good water to the poor, in preserving their health, and the consequent saving to the city in poor taxes.

I might dwell upon the preservation of life among all classes of citizens, from a free enjoyment of this comfort and necessary of life.

I might show the safety of property, by having sources of water always at hand to extinguish fires, and it would be easy to produce cases when there has been great losses, for want of this ready supply, and the increased risk of insurance which the citizens have to pay

And lastly, I say how important it is to secure these sources of water from these streams, before any more hydraulic works are erected; and when I add that these form the sources on which the city is destined to rely, it becomes all important.

These considerations are of that kind, that they need only be mentioned to show their importance.

Persons have asserted with great confidence, that it would be better to resort to the Passaic River, above the falls at Patterson. As I have a good knowledge of the water of this stream, and know the wants of the manufacturing establishments at Patterson, I can assert with confidence, that there is no probability of obtaining water from this source, without great injury to the establishments now erected. And as the water, after it has passed the factories is only 25 feet above tide, it cannot be brought from that point and supply New-York.

These considerations, and the difficulty of obtaining power for executing the work from the Legislature of another state, make it very desirable to look to our own Legislature and our own waters for a supply to the city, and the power to introduce it.

I am, Dear Sir, with very great respect,

Your Ob't. Servant,

BENJAMIN WRIGHT.

New-York, August 19th, 1830.

IN COMMON COUNCIL,

OCTOBER 25th, 1830.

Communication of Francis E. Phelps. on the subject of Water, presented by Alderman B. M. Brown, referred to Committee on the Fire Department and Water Committee.

J. MORTON, Clerk.

To the Honourable Common Council of the City of New-York.

The undersigned respectfully begs leave to call the attention of your honorable body to a petition by him made in the month of May last, soliciting certain surveys to ascertain the practicability of supplying the city with pure and wholesome water, which petition was referred to the Committee on the Fire Department and the Water Committee. The time since elapsed has enabled the undersigned to make such examinations and complete such arrangements as warrant him in making the following general proposition:

To furnish a continual supply of pure, fresh and wholesome water, not exceeding four millions of gallons per 24 hours, to be delivered at any point within one hundred rods of the present reservoir in Thirteenth-street, for the term of time herein after mentioned. After the works are completed and the company have commenced delivering the water as aforesaid, upon notice given, it shall be at the option of the

Corporation to pay said company eight hundred thousand dollars, or pay to said company ten per cent annual interest on the said \$800,000 for ten years from the date of said notice; and at the end of said ten years the Corporation shall again have the option of taking the works at \$800,000, or paying ten per cent annual interest on the same forever or for such term of time as the company shall deliver the water as aforesaid. The Corporation will furnish free of charge, the use of the reservoir, well, &c. on Thirteenth-street; assistance in procuring from the Legislature an act of incorporation for said company for the purposes aforesaid; and such other reasonable privileges and advantages as may be required in the premises.

Should the proposition be favourably received, the undersigned respectfully solicits an early attention to the subject, to enable the individuals composing the company to procure a charter at the next session of the Legislature.

All which is respectfully submitted.

FRANCIS E. PHELPS.